Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled).

16(Currently amended). An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding for ~~the polypeptide of claim 1~~ a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a human Rgr polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(B) a variant polypeptide of human Rgr consisting of an amino acid sequence with at least 98% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2;

(C) an abnormally truncated variant of human Rgr selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:24, and those encoded by a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and combinations of two or more of SEQ ID NOs:5, 6 and 7 joined together as a contiguous sequence.

17(Original). The nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

18(Original). The nucleic acid molecule of claim 17, wherein the nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide comprises nucleotides 1171 to 2589 of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

20(Currently amended). The nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide ~~is a naturally occurring variant of (A)~~ consists of an amino acid sequence with at least 98% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

21(Currently amended). The nucleic acid molecule of claim 20, wherein ~~said naturally occurring variant is an alternative splice variant~~ the polypeptide has at least 98% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

23(Currently amended). The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~22~~ 16, wherein ~~said abnormally truncated variant comprises SEQ ID NO:8~~ consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:22, and SEQ ID NO:24.

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

25(Currently amended). The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~22~~ 16, ~~comprising~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, or a combination thereof joined together as a contiguous sequence.

26(Currently amended). The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~22~~ 23, ~~comprising~~ consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:21, and SEQ ID NO:23.

27(Withdrawn). A method for diagnosing T cell malignancies associated with abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr oncogene and/or abnormal truncation of human Rgr protein, comprising:

subjecting a nucleic acid molecule, isolated from T cells obtained from a human subject, to amplification using a primer from the nucleotide sequence of claim 25 and a primer from a nucleotide sequence which is present in both the nucleotide sequence encoding said abnormally truncated variant and nucleotides 1171 to 2589 of SEQ ID NO:1;

detecting the presence or absence of amplification products corresponding to abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr; and

diagnosing a T cell malignancy associated with abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr and/or abnormal truncation of human Rgr protein upon detecting the presence of amplification products corresponding to abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr.

28(Withdrawn). An antisense oligonucleotide complementary to a messenger RNA, which is the nucleic acid molecule of claim 26, and encoding an abnormally truncated variant of human Rgr protein, wherein said oligonucleotide inhibits the production of said abnormally truncated variant of human Rgr protein.

29(Withdrawn). A method for treating T cell malignancies associated with abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr oncogene and/or abnormal truncation of human Rgr protein, comprising causing the antisense oligonucleotide of claim 28 to contact abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr and inhibit the production of an abnormally truncated variant of human Rgr protein in T cells of a human patient in need thereof.

30(Withdrawn). A double stranded RNA molecule, one of whose strands is complementary to a messenger RNA, which messenger RNA is the nucleic acid molecule of claim 26 and encodes an abnormally truncated variant of human Rgr protein.

31(Withdrawn). The double stranded RNA molecule of claim 30, which inhibits the production of said abnormally truncated variant of human Rgr protein.

32(Withdrawn). The double stranded RNA molecule of claim 31, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:27.

33(Withdrawn). A method for treating T cell malignancies associated with abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr oncogene and/or abnormal truncation of human Rgr protein, comprising causing the double stranded RNA molecule of claim 31 to contact abnormally truncated transcripts of human rgr and inhibit the production of human Rgr protein in T cells of human patient in need thereof.

34(Original). A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 16.

35(Original). A host cell transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of claim 16.